

NERAM seeks Expressions of Interest Indigenous Curator: *Myall Creek and Beyond*



The New England Regional Art Museum is inviting expressions of interest from independent, Australian-based, Indigenous curators to curate the exhibition *Myall Creek and Beyond*.

Myall Creek and Beyond is a special project developed by NERAM in partnership with the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial that will produce an exhibition and range of public programs responding to the Myall Creek Massacre and court case of 1883 and the theme of reconciliation.

The final exhibition will be open at NERAM in June 2018. The selected curator will work independently on a contract basis with the Museum over roughly an 18 month period starting in February 2017.

Further information: <http://www.neram.com.au/eoi-myall-creek-exhibition/>

NERAM PATRONS:

- PATRONS: THE HON BARNABY JOYCE, MP MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND
- MR ADAM MARSHALL, MP MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS
- DR PHILIP BACON AM, DIRECTOR, PHILIP BACON GALLERIES
- MR BARRY PEARCE AM, EMERITUS CURATOR, ART GALLERY OF NSW

The Myall Creek Massacre

On the afternoon of Sunday 10 June 1838 a group of eleven convicts and ex-convict stockmen led by a squatter, brutally slaughtered a group of twenty-eight Aboriginal men, women and children who were camped peacefully at the station of Myall Creek in the New England region.

Although there were many other massacres of indigenous people that occurred during the Frontier Wars across Australia, this one had special significance because it was the only time when white men were, arrested, charged and hung for the massacre of Aborigines, following a police investigation.

The Myall Creek Massacre was extensively documented through the police investigation, courtcase and media coverage. So it cannot be denied. While justice was seen to be done in this case, it also sent a signal throughout the wider community that white men could be brought to trial for killing Aboriginal people. However we know that massacres continued to happen around Australia until the 1920s. Many of these were conducted in secrecy, but others were known to local communities, lawmakers, church groups and their leaders.

Some people still deny their existence today.

Project Overview

This project aims to bring together a group of leading indigenous contemporary artists to work with local communities in regional NSW to participate in an artist residency and create new works for an exhibition that will explore the issues and complexities of the Myall Creek Massacre and its aftermath.

On 10th June 2000 the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial was unveiled as a unique reconciliation memorial and the site was added to the Commonwealth Government's National Heritage Register in 2008. Every June the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial organise a Commemoration Service at the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial attracting visitors from around Australia for a solemn event based upon acknowledging our joint history as an important step in the process of reconciliation.

The aim of the project will be to create broader community awareness of this episode in the history of the New England region and to encourage people to become involved in this annual Commemoration event as participants and supporters.

The project is being developed and co-ordinated by the New England Regional Art Museum. The curator will work with a curatorium which will include community representatives and partners to deliver the project outcomes.

Proposed Outcomes of the project include:

- Artist residencies for up to 6 Indigenous artists to participate in the 2017 Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Commemoration event and to conduct on-site research for the development of new and responsive artworks
- Community workshops in the New England Region that work with artists and educators to unpack and understand the historic event and its impact and whose material will create a community artwork for presentation at the 2018 Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Commemoration event which will mark the 180th anniversary of the Massacre
- An exhibition at NERAM of contemporary indigenous work responding to the Myall Creek Massacre created by the residency artists along with other relevant historical objects and materials
- An associated exhibition or display at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place
- Online educational resources and a regional schools program
- Special community event at 2018 Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Commemoration in June 2018
- A publication
- An academic symposium

Curator's Role

A detailed schedule will be developed with the selected curator but broadly the Myall Creek and Beyond project falls under the following stages:

Stage 1: January – June 2017 Selected curator to undertake initial research, present a detailed exhibition proposal and select artists for inclusion in the Myall Creek Memorial Residency.

Stage 2: June 2017 The project curator and selected artists will participate in artist residency at the Myall Creek Memorial and surrounding site to conduct research and collect material that will initiate the creation of new and responsive artworks. The residency will include participation in the 2017 Myall Creek Memorial Commemoration Service.

Stage 3: July 2017 – February 2018 Production of responsive artworks by artists and development of exhibition and catalogue content by curator.

Stage 4: June – September 2018 180th Anniversary Myall Creek Memorial Commemoration Service, *Myall Creek and Beyond* Exhibition at NERAM and partner sites, public and education programs. The curator will be expected to participate in the installation of the exhibition, to attend the opening event and be available to participate in related public programs, promotions and community activities.

Stage 5: 2019 – 2020 Possible exhibition Tour.

**At this stage funding has been sourced for Stages 1 & 2 of the project with further funding being sought for Stages 3,4 & 5.*

The chosen curator will be responsible for the development of the exhibition from concept to presentation, including but not limited to the selection of artists and art works, preparation of a curatorial essay and other interpretative material, sourcing additional resources and funding if appropriate. The curator will collaborate with NERAM on the preparation of all interpretation material to accompany the exhibition as well as preparation of the exhibition for display. The curator will also be available for participation in related public programs and events including presenting a paper at the symposium and will assist with community advocacy, promotion and marketing of the exhibition.

Expressions of Interest

The expressions of interest should include:

- A one page in length general statement regarding the overall approach the curator will bring to the process of curating *Myall Creek and Beyond* (this does not need to include a detail exhibition outline or complete list of artists but may contain an indication of key artists and information that are indicative of the curator's approach to the project)
- CV up to 5 pages in length that details past projects and experience
- Proposed fee structure
- Travel costs and allowances throughout the project development will be negotiated with NERAM

As part of the selection process candidates may be asked to present/ discuss their ideas in person or by phone to a small group of project partners.

Expressions of interest may be emailed to exhibitions@neram.com.au or posted to:

Rachael Parsons
Manager Curatorial and Exhibitions
New England Regional Art Museum
PO Box 508, Armidale NSW 2350

Closing Date for Expressions of Interest: now extended to 27 January 2017

For more information please contact:

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